

## 18. SPECIALTY PROVIDERS

Specialty providers who serve a unique client base and offer only a subset of pediatric vaccines are eligible for the VFC Program. Specialty providers participating in the Montana VFC Program are listed below along with any special requirements unique to their situation. Unless otherwise noted below, specialty providers must follow all VFC requirements outlined in this handbook.

Requirement

### *Family Planning Clinics*

The CDC defines a family planning clinic as a provider whose main purpose is to prescribe contraceptives and/or treat sexually transmitted diseases. Providers whose main services involve primary or acute care do not qualify as family planning clinics.

Family planning clinics have the following unique VFC requirements:

- Vaccine offerings at family planning clinics are limited to those relevant to their client base, such as human papilloma virus (HPV) and hepatitis B.
- Family planning clinics can administer VFC vaccine to an additional eligibility category:  
Unaccompanied minors less than 19 years of age who present at family planning clinics for contraceptive services or sexually transmitted disease (STD) treatment who do not know their insurance status or choose not to access their insurance due to the confidential nature of their visit (See note below).
- Family planning clinics must screen for this special eligibility category and document VFC vaccine given to this population per current Immunization Program instructions. The Immunization Program offers a special eligibility screening log for family planning clinics that captures this information. Contact the Immunization Program for current forms and procedures (444-5580 [hhsiz@mt.gov](mailto:hhsiz@mt.gov)).
- **Please Note:** The VFC Program does not regulate the issue of medical consent for the provision of medical care to minors. Clinics are responsible for providing care in conformance with Montana's medical consent laws as they pertain to minors.

Requirement

### *Birthing Hospitals*

Hepatitis B vaccination is recommended for all infants soon after birth and before hospital discharge. The Montana Immunization Program funds a universal hepatitis B birth dose vaccine program for all infants born in the state. Because this program is partially funded through the VFC Program, Montana birthing hospitals must be enrolled in the VFC Program and fulfill all program requirements in order to receive publicly-supplied vaccine.

- Hepatitis B birth dose is the only publicly funded vaccine available to birthing hospitals.
- Because all newborns qualify for the vaccine, birthing hospitals are not required to screen patients for VFC eligibility prior to administering the vaccine. However, birthing hospitals must track birth dose recipients by VFC eligibility category using one of the methods described in Section 4 – Eligibility.
- Like all VFC providers, birthing hospitals must manage their vaccine orders, inventory, and cold chain in imMTrax either as integrated (entering patient-level information) or aggregate users (entering only aggregate doses administered). See Section 1, page 8 for definitions.

Requirement

- Birthing hospitals must use State-supplied data loggers in all VFC vaccine storage units or provide their own approved, program-compliant thermometer as outlined in Section 14.

## ***Pharmacies***

Montana pharmacies are allowed to provide influenza immunizations to children 12 years and older and must enroll in the VFC Program in order to serve Medicaid (and other VFC-eligible) children.

Pharmacies must agree to vaccinate all “walk-in” VFC-eligible children and not refuse to vaccinate VFC-eligible children based on a parent’s inability to pay the administration fee.

Pharmacies qualify for streamlined oversight in the VFC Program if they:

- Received a documented enrollment visit prior to receiving vaccine
- Have a current Site Contract/Provider Agreement
- Have ordered vaccine within the calendar year
- Submit one month of temperature data from VFC vaccine storage units prior to storing vaccine.

Requirement

Providers who qualify for streamlined oversight are exempt from having a routine biennial compliance site visits (detailed in Section 7). The Immunization Program reserves the right to conduct a compliance site visit if deemed necessary.

Pharmacies must participate in imMTrax as integrated providers and submit to the Immunization Program on a monthly basis:

Requirement

- Storage unit cold chain certification, including that there has been no change in storage units or change in VFC vaccine managers
- An inventory report that includes:
  - Doses on hand by vaccine at beginning of reporting period
  - Doses received by vaccine during reporting period
  - Doses administered by age cohort during the reporting period
  - Doses of vaccine wasted/lost due to mishandling by vaccine for reporting period
  - Doses on hand by vaccine at the end of reporting period
  - Doses of vaccine administered by VFC eligibility category (See Section 4–Eligibility)

This information is automatically submitted to the Immunization Program when pharmacies manage their VFC vaccine inventory in imMTrax as integrated providers.

If the required documentation is not submitted or it shows wasted/lost or unaccounted for vaccine greater than 5%, temperature excursions, or a statement of change in VFC Manager or storage units, the Immunization Program must follow up with the pharmacy before placing their vaccine order.

- Pharmacies must use State-supplied data loggers in all VFC vaccine storage units or provide their own approved, program-compliant thermometer as outlined in Section 14.